U. S. Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
and
U. S. Department of Commerce
Weather Bureau

Nebr. Dept. of Agr. & Inspection
Division of Agr'l. Statistics
and
Agricultural Extension Service
Of Nebr. College of Agr.

NEBRASKA WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP REPORT

Released 5-1-51 - 11:00 A.M.

Week Ending 4-30-51

WEATHER Temperatures were considerably below normal during the first half of the week, but were unseasonably high during the latter half, with averages for the week generally above normal. Heavy rains fell over most of the eastern half of the state, and moderate to heavy over the western half, except that a few small localities in the extreme southwest and over the Panhandle received only light showers. There was considerable wind on several days. Sunshine was generally deficient in the east.

CROPS Winter wheat has staged an excellent comeback as usual after suffering severe damage from winter-kill amounting to damage of at least 25% of the wheat plants in the western two-thirds of the state. Damage to plants ranged from complete kill to partly damaged plants, but practically all of the latter have started growth. Wheat got an excellent start last fall and a little thinning may yet result in more good than harm.

It is evident that the abandonment will not be nearly as large as it appeared in early April. Some fields will be abandoned entirely, others partly abandoned where small grain was sown in spots. The greatest damage will be found in the extreme southwest portion of the Panhandle, the extreme southwest portion of southwestern Nebraska and a small area in south-central Nebraska, more noticeable on Highway 4 in Franklin and Harlan counties. Considerable damage was apparent in northern Phelps and northwestern Kearney counties. Field examination during the past two weeks revealed a marked improvement after the rain and warmer weather. In eastern Nebraska where some winter-kill was apparent the damage was only slight and the abandonment may not exceed the average.

While many causes of abandonment have been advanced, the leading cause is the dry winter, loose soil, probably some loss of winter hardiness in February followed by low temperatures this spring. Where the soil was loose the loss was the greatest. Where soil was moist, the loss was at a minimum and in the east where there was more moisture, the loss was light and damaged fields show delayed growth. It is evident as in past experiences that where the soil was moist and packed the damage was less. In the western third of the state, weeds may be a factor on thin stands.

Other factors contributing to the loss may have been reduced vitality due to green bugs, orange-leaf rust and possibly other diseases. Army cut worms were present in large numbers in some areas.

The moisture situation is now highly favorable throughout the entire state and with the good growth of wheat now being made the "crop killers" will have to resort to damage from weeds in the thin stands, possible infestation of green bug and other insects, root rot and rust since the crop is behind schedule due to winter damage, previous dry, cold weather and late spring.

Reports indicate that 81% of the oats have been seeded. The report last week was in error and should have been 68%. About 82% of the barley has been seeded and 85% of the spring wheat. If the balance of these spring grains are not sown there will be a total of 533,000 acres which can be devoted largely to corn, sorghum or soybeans, assuming the March acreage intentions to plant are not reached. In addition, there will be some abandoned winter wheat planted to sorghum or corn but it appears that this shift in acreage will not be sufficient to attain the desired acreage of feed grains. It is possible that some of the rotation grasses and winter-killed alfalfa might be planted to corn or other feed grains. The reports for the week show an improvement in the condition of alfalfa, wild hay and pasture.

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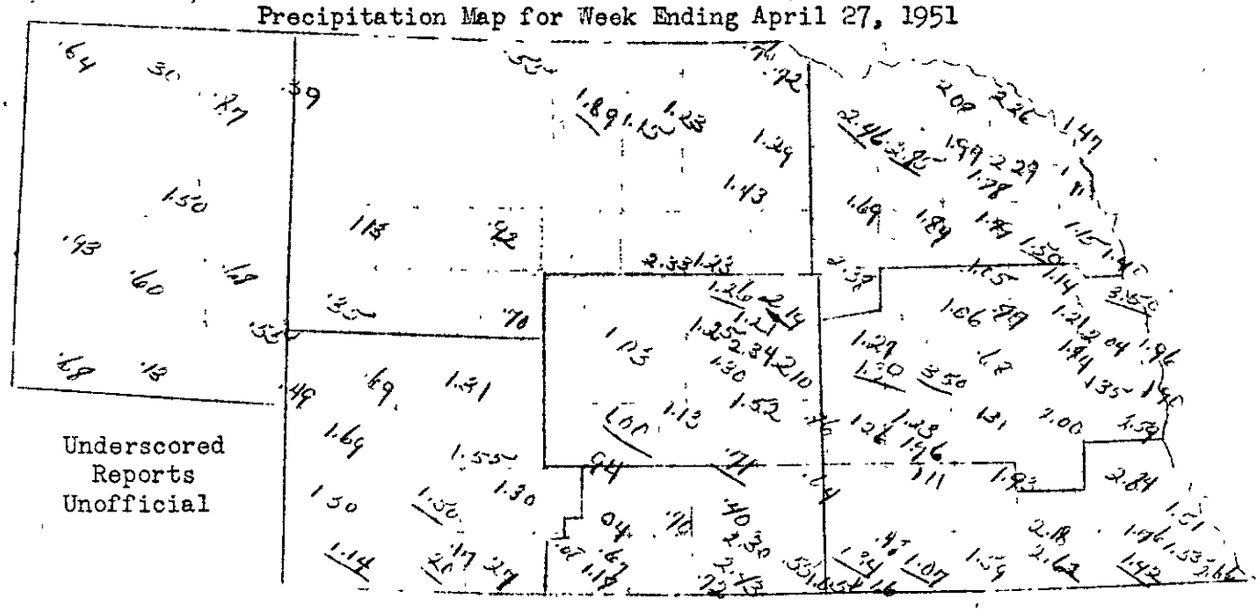
Precipitation Map for Week Ending April 27, 1951



HIGHEST AND LOWEST TEMPERATURES (For 24 hours ending in a.m.)

		APRIL 24th		25th		26th		27th		28th		29th		30th	
		Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min
NW	Chadron	57	30	42	33	50	41	55	44	73	42	80	50	84	45
	Scottsbluff	50	32	37	32	49	36	52	37	71	38	78	40	80	45
	Sidney	67	34	40	32	46	32	51	32	71	41	76	43	79	52
N-C	Burwell	61	40	46	36	57	33	54	47	77	49	83	49	75	59
	Valentine	53	38	47	36	57	39	59	45	74	55	80	55	77	57
NE	Norfolk	62	41	49	40	57	33	57	50	78	49	81	61	80	61
	Sioux City	64	41	48	40	58	32	58	48	78	48	81	58	80	61
Cen.	Grand Island	69	45	53	39	56	34	56	51	76	55	82	63	75	60
E-C	Lincoln	68	49	58	43	51	37	57	56	80	58	87	67	79	63
	Omaha	66	47	57	44	51	34	57	52	79	54	86	65	82	62
SW	North Platte	67	40	46	36	58	38	55	40	73	48	83	57	75	56

WEATHER BUREAU TELEGRAPHIC REPORT OF PRECIPITATION FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 30, 1951

Eastern Division		Eastern Div., Cont'd.		Central Division		Western Division	
Albion	2.38	Hastings	.65	Broken Bow	1.03	Alliance	1.50
Ashland	1.51	Lincoln	1.28	Burwell	1.23	Chadron	.30
Auburn	1.51	Norfolk	1.89	Cambridge	.10	Culbertson	.17
Beatrice	1.95	Oakdale	1.64	Holdrege	.90	Imperial	.89
Columbus	.78	Omaha	2.71	North Loup	1.21	Kimball	.68
Fairbury	1.44	Red Cloud	.78	North Platte	1.31	Scottsbluff	.98
Fairmont	1.04	St. Paul	2.10	O'Neill	1.29	Sidney	.42
Falls City	1.15	Tekamah	2.05	Ravenna	1.52		
Fremont	1.51	Wakefield	3.07	Valentine	.55		
Grand Island	.71	York	1.09				
Hartington	2.87						
Average this week			1.62		1.02		0.71
Total since April 1			3.94		2.31		1.71
Normal since April 1			2.50		2.36		2.03

(Issued by the Weather Bureau and the State and Federal Departments of Agriculture)